

U.S. NAVY INTELLIGENCE REPORT SEES GROWTH OF CHINA NAVY PROWESS

By Tony Capaccio

(Bloomberg) — Office of Naval Intelligence report says China's anti-ship cruise, ballistic missiles and targeting systems expand nation's combat power into Philippine and South China seas.

- China's integration of aircraft operations two months after new carrier commissioned in 2012 showed "remarkable progress has already been made," ONI says
- China's submarine force grew to 68 in 2014 from 59 in 2006; 74 projected by 2020, ONI says
 - Nearly 60 percent of Chinese submarines are capable of firing anti-ship cruise missiles, ONI says
 - Nuclear-powered submarines projected to grow to 11 by 2020 from 8 in 2005
- ONI report published today updated 2009 public assessment as "China's greater fleet has begun to stretch its legs"
- In 2013-2014, China launched more naval vessels "than any other country," and is expected to "continue this trend" through 2016, ONI says
- First operational cruise of JIN-class ICBM-equipped submarines "perhaps most anticipated event," ONI says
- Deployment "will mark China's first credible" at-sea nuclear strike capability against "targets on continental U.S.," ONI says
- Shipboard air defense "arguably most notable area of improvement" of China surface ships
- Navy "will probably emerge" as China military's "most prolific" users of drones for targeting
- China's Navy has demonstrated "mixed" record over decade training with Army and Air Force

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